

a resolution to abstain thenceforth from his old practice.—*Mirror*.

From page 117.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26.

Dr CARSON reported from the select committee appointed to investigate and report upon the estimates laid before the House by his Excellency the Governor; and he read the report in his place and afterwards delivered it in at the clerk's table, where it was read, and is as follows:—

Your committee, in accordance with the powers delegated to them, have examined with care the scale of the Estimate of the probable amount required for defraying the expenses of the Colony for the year commencing the 1st of April, 1834, founded on the establishment as existing in the Colony, presented to the House by his Excellency the Governor.

Your Committee will proceed with their observations in the same order in which the various items are placed on the Estimate.—The first items which attracted the attention of the committee are the salaries of the Surveyor General of £300 per annum, and to a chairman of £20 per annum. As the amount of the rents and sales of the Crown Lands has not yet been given up to the Legislature, the committee conceive that the colony cannot justly be called upon to provide the salaries of Surveyor General and chairman.

Although the committee cannot help expressing a conviction that Education is of the first importance, and demands the best attention of the House, yet they contemplate the three schools arranged under the civil department of that character which does not claim the peculiar patronage of a national assembly.

The sum of £50 charged for making up the Fishery Returns, the committee are of opinion may in future be saved to the Colony.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.—In this department the committee consider that the duties of Clerk of the Supreme and Central Circuit Courts should be performed by one person at a fixed salary, and all fees taken by the respective clerks ought to be accounted for and applied to the general purposes of the Island.

The committee beg to recommend, as being in accordance with the practice now very generally adopted in the mother country as a general principle, that all fees should be so accounted for and not to be appropriated to individual emoluments.

The salary and fees of the office of Sheriff are very considerable, exclusive of the additional advantages of a house with a supply of coals and candles. The Committee recommend a revision of this appointment, particularly as abstracting the duties not necessarily connected with the office, the labor and responsibility will be considerably diminished.

The Labrador Court may be expected to be done away with by the bill now in progress, which will effect a saving to the Colony of £1497 per annum.

The Court of Vice Admiralty being for general purposes of the Empire ought not to be charged upon the revenues of New-

foundland, and the committee recommend an early representation to his Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies on this subject.

POLICE ESTABLISHMENT.—This being purely a municipal establishment, ought as far as practicable to be met by a municipal revenue.

ECCLESIASTICAL DEPARTMENT.—The committee consider that all ecclesiastical salaries ought to be disallowed, on the just principle that all religious societies should support their own establishments.

PENSIONS.—Under this head there is a sum of £50 to a very infirm and aged officer of the courts, and the sum of £30 to the widow of the late Attorney-General;—the latter, the committee submit, had no claims upon the Colony.

Under the head of *Contingencies*, the committee consider that very considerable savings might be effected, and they recommend that the more important services should be performed by contract, in accordance with the practice now general in the various departments of the British service,—which practice the committee strongly recommend to the adoption of the House.

The large sums of money paid for civil and criminal prosecutions, as well as gaol expenses, of the last year, arose from an unusual increase of crime, which it is hoped will not again occur—the want of efficient courts of Justice for the trial of criminals, causing an unusual accumulation of prisoners and a proportionate increase of expense.

Of the sum of £1725 for the maintenance of paupers, orphans, and bastards, and sick persons, a considerable portion may, under the application of judicious laws, in a great measure be saved to the general Revenue.

The charges for the conveyance of the circuit Judges may be saved by the application of a sufficient sum for the improvement of roads.

The committee indulge the reasonable expectation that the two items of civil and criminal prosecutions and gaol expenses, amounting to £1429 may, in the ensuing year, be diminished at least one half; and that the Attorney General's fees and the charge for extra constables may likewise be lessened.

The committee consider that many items under the head of incidentals, Public Buildings, Fuel and Light, may be saved to the public.

As the salaries of the officers of the Customs are deducted from the gross receipt, the whole expense, of course, falls upon the Colony—the committee therefore, feel it their duty, to notice that a saving might be made in the arrangements of that department more particularly with relation to the office of Comptroller, which in the other Colonies, is understood to have been done away with.

On a careful examination of the Estimate laid before the House by his Excellency the Governor, the committee are pleased to have it in their power to state that it deems that a saving of nearly one third of the sum of £13451 18s. 5d. the amount of the Estimate may be effected without injury to the Public service, and that many duties would under other arrangements be accomplished more in

accordance with the public sentiments and the public claims.

That the expenses to be provided for in addition to the salaries formerly appropriated would not exceed £9000, for the necessary and usual demands of the Colony—making the total to be provided for under the present understanding of reserved salaries (viz., Governor and other officers, £6550 and Custom House expenses, £3818 18s.)—in all £19336.

To meet these expenses	£
there is in the Treasury, .....	1935
Estimated Old Duties .....	12668
Estimated Colonial Duties (nett) ..	8000
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Total	22603
From which deduct estimate ....	19336

Leaving a Balance of ..... 3267  
For such purposes as the Assembly may find necessary.

MARCH 27.—Message from the Governor:  
"THOMAS COCHRANE,

"The Governor acquaints the House of Assembly, in reply to its address of the 12th instant, that when his Excellency, at the close of the second Sessions, tacitly consented to continue to defray, as heretofore, the expenses of the Colony, it was from the knowledge that there were no funds then at the disposal of the Legislature, and that the intention of his Majesty's Government to apply to Parliament for a grant in aid of the Colonial funds would not sanction drawing on the Imperial Treasury in anticipation of its consent;—His Excellency at the same time fully intended, on the meeting of the Colonial Legislature, to place at its disposal such funds as might there remain unapproached, as the most constitutional course to pursue, and the one which his Excellency considered would best meet the wishes of the Assembly,—and his Excellency had then every reason to believe that a considerable surplus Revenue would remain after providing for all expenses to the 1st of April next. A most unexpected decrease in the Revenue, and a large increase in the expenses attending the administration of justice, have disappointed his Excellency's hopes, and left the deficiency in the Colonial Revenue alluded to by the House of Assembly.

"His Excellency, ever ready to accede to the views and wishes of the House of Assembly, and to remove all difficulties which may tend to impede their labours for the public good, has given his serious consideration to the subject of its address,—and as his Excellency does observe in the dispatch of his Majesty's Secretary of State, of the 4th of May, 1833 (a copy of which was transmitted to the House of Assembly) some expressions which countenance the impression the House of Assembly appears to have entertained as to the intentions of his Majesty's government to provide for the ordinary expenditure of the colony, to the 1st of April next, his Excellency will take upon himself the responsibility of concurring in the sentiments expressed by the House of Assembly, and will continue to defray, until the 1st of April, the ordinary expenses of Government.

"Government-House, 26th March."